

elongated member to raise the firearm, and so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a second direction shortens the elongated member to lower the firearm;

wherein the connector assembly comprises a curved arm with a first end attached to the turnbuckle and a second end that curves away from the axis of the elongated member.

17. The device of Claim 16, wherein the connector assembly comprises a single pivotal joint.

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and further examination of this application.

Referring to the above amendments, on page 8, line 4, applicant amends the phrase “to pivot to be parallel and close to the gun barrel” to be “to pivot to be parallel and close to the buttstock”. This amendment more appropriately describes the orientation of the apparatus, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, and, in effect, corrects a typographical error while adding no new matter. Further, Applicant has amended the call-out line for buttstock 14 in Figure 1 and 2 to be more consistent with use throughout the specification of the term “buttstock.” The other amendments to the drawings and description made above have been made for the sole purpose of correcting typographical or grammatical mistakes, and add no new matter.

With regard to the objections stated in sections 1 and 2 of the Examiner’s Detailed Action, Figures 6 and 7A have been amended. The inclusion of reference number 110 in Figures 6 and 7A is consistent with the specification as set forth on page 11, lines 1-13. Further, the amended locations of reference letters B and C in Figure 6 merely correct an unintentional labeling error in the original drawing. The amended locations of the reference letters B and C in Figure 6 are consistent with the language in the original specification set forth on page 11, lines 14-17, so no new matter has been added.

With regard to the objections stated in sections 3-7 of the Examiner's Detailed Action, the claims have been amended to address the term "curved arm," eliminate informalities, and to correct claim dependency.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 set forth in section 8 of the Examiner's Detailed Action, under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Claims 5 and 14 have been rewritten. The claims are now written in independent format to include the limitations of their base claims and the replacement of the term "curved arm" with "angled arm". There are no rejections to these claims based upon prior art. Therefore, having corrected the objections facing Claims 5 and 14, these claims are allowable. In addition, Claims 6, 7 and 15 depend from these claims and should thus also be allowable.

Although "curved arm" has been removed from Claims 5 and 14, Applicant adds new Claims 16 and 17, which do use the term "curved arm," but do not refer to an "angle" of the arm for clarity and to solve any possible Section 112 second paragraph rejections. Applicant argues that curved arms as well as sharply-angled arms were disclosed in the originally-filed application – in original Claims 5 and 14, in view of Figure 7A which does not show a sharply-angled arm but a curved arm, and in view of the explanation on original page 11 that the arm serves "to place the pivot point . . . a distance from the axis of the leveler-stabilizer." Further, Applicant argues that the term "curved" is easily understood by one of average skill in the art, in view of original Claims 5 and 14 and the original Description and Drawings, because the term "curve" is understood to mean "a line or outline that gradually deviates from being straight for some or all of its length" (see Oxford American Dictionary excerpt, attached as Appendix E). Therefore, a "curved arm" such as originally claimed in Claim 5 and 14 would be understood by one of average skill to be an example of an arm that would fulfill the object of placing the pivot point a distance from the axis of the leveler-stabilizer, and would simply be a more gradual version of a sharply-angled arm. Further, Applicant argues that new Figure 7C is properly supportive of a claim to a curved arm, especially in view of its similarity to originally-filed Figure 7A which shows an arm without a sharp angle, an arm more gradual distancing the arm end from the longitudinal axis of the leveler-stabilizer.

In order to provide literal support in the Description, Applicant has amended the Description at page 11 to include a reference to a curved arm, has added Figure 7C to

specifically show a curved arm, and has also amended the Brief Description of the Drawings to include a reference to new Figure 7C. Applicant argues that there is no new matter added.

Further, to more clearly describe Figures 7A and 7B, Applicant has amended the Brief Description of the Drawings to indicate that Figure 7A and 7B are “of the type of embodiment shown in Figure 6” – that is, not necessarily the embodiment of Figure 6. This is a more accurate reflection of the original drawings, as one may see from the original Figures that the embodiment in Figure 7A is not identical to the embodiment of Figure 6, and the embodiment in Figure 7B is not identical to the embodiment of Figure 6 or identical to the embodiment of Figure 7A, but that Figures 6, 7A, 7B, and new 7C are all of the same general type, that is, the especially-preferred embodiment type with one swivel. No new matter has been added as these amendments simply more accurately reflect the relationship between the Figures.

With regard to the rejection stated by the examiner in section 9 of the Detailed Action, *Dumas* (1,406,287) does not disclose or suggest the use of a turnbuckle to adjust the length of an elongated member for supporting a firearm. Rather, *Dumas* teaches, on page 1, column 2, lines 89-91, a spacing rod that may constitute multiple rod segments connected by threaded sleeves. There is no disclosure or suggestion that these threaded sleeves have an oppositely threaded arrangement such as would be necessary for a turnbuckle. There is no disclosure or suggestion that these threaded sleeves can in any way adjust the length of the rod segments except perhaps by removing one of the threaded sleeves to remove one of the rod segments. Adjustability, particularly vertical adjustment, is mentioned elsewhere in the publication, but neither in regard to these threaded sleeve connectors nor with reference to the use of a turnbuckle. Instead, adjustments in the *Dumas* device are accomplished using a sliding rod member which may be held at different positions within a tubular member by a set screw, as described on page 1, column 2, lines 75-78.

In light of the above remarks, and with regard to the rejections set forth by the examiner in sections 9-11 of the Detailed Action, the referenced publications, whether viewed individually or in combination, do not disclose Applicant's invention as it is claimed in independent Claims 1 and 9. *Parker* (6,305,116), *Dvoroznak* (5,110,022), *Garand* (2,489,283), and *Dumas* (1,406,827) do not disclose or suggest the use of a turnbuckle in making adjustments to the

elevation of a firearm/firearm support, as recited in Claims 1 and 9 of the subject application. Therefore, Claims 1 and 9, as well as those claims which depend from these claims, are also novel and non-obvious.

Applicant now believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Pedersen Date: Jan 28, 2003

Ken J. Pedersen, Registration No. 29,689

Barbara S. Pedersen, Registration No. 36,237

P.O. Box 2666

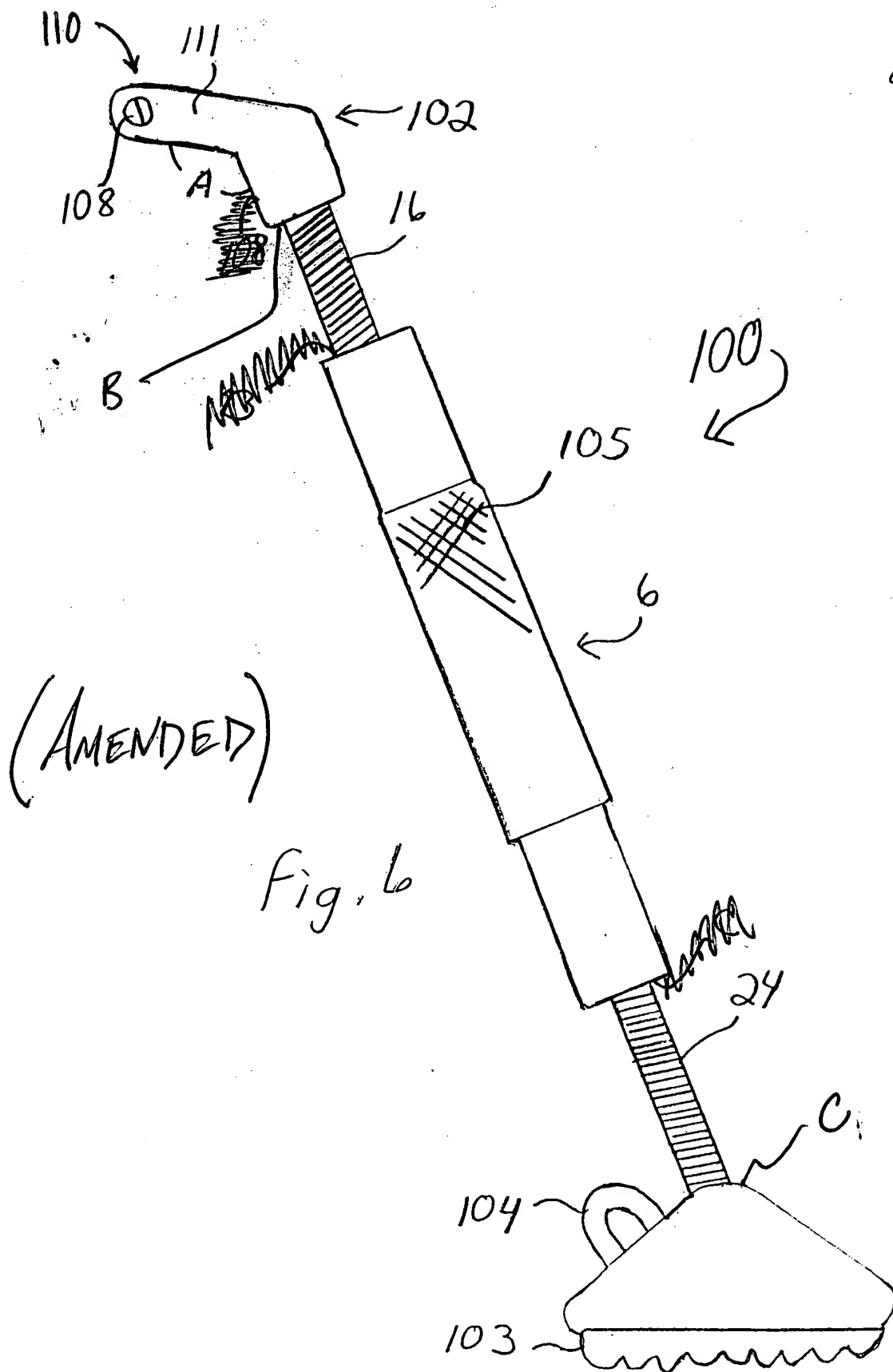
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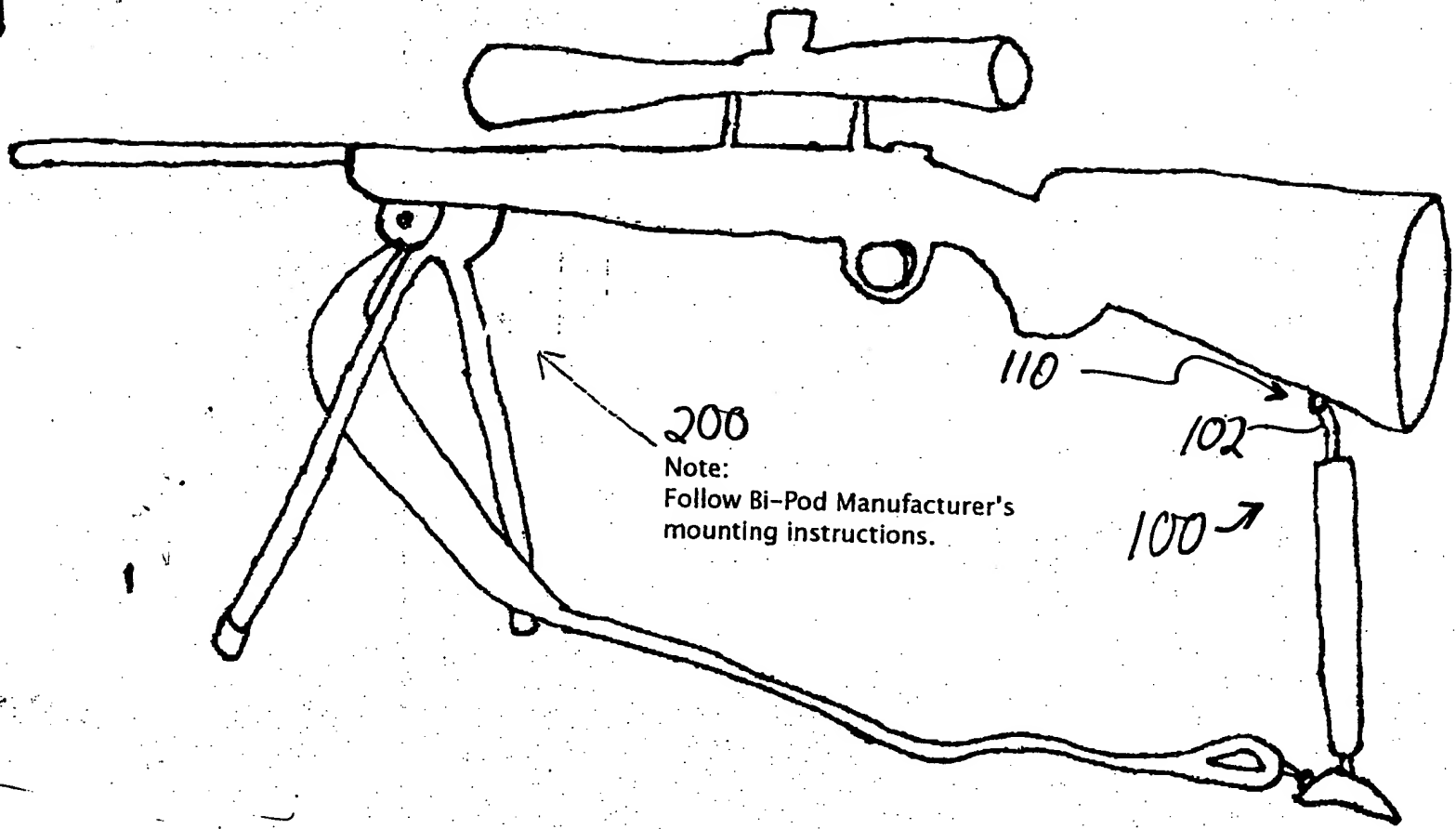


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APPENDIX A

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(AMENDED)

Fig. 7A

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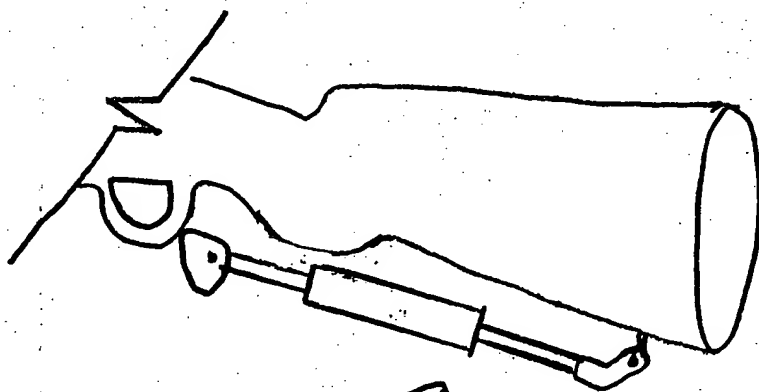


Fig. 7B

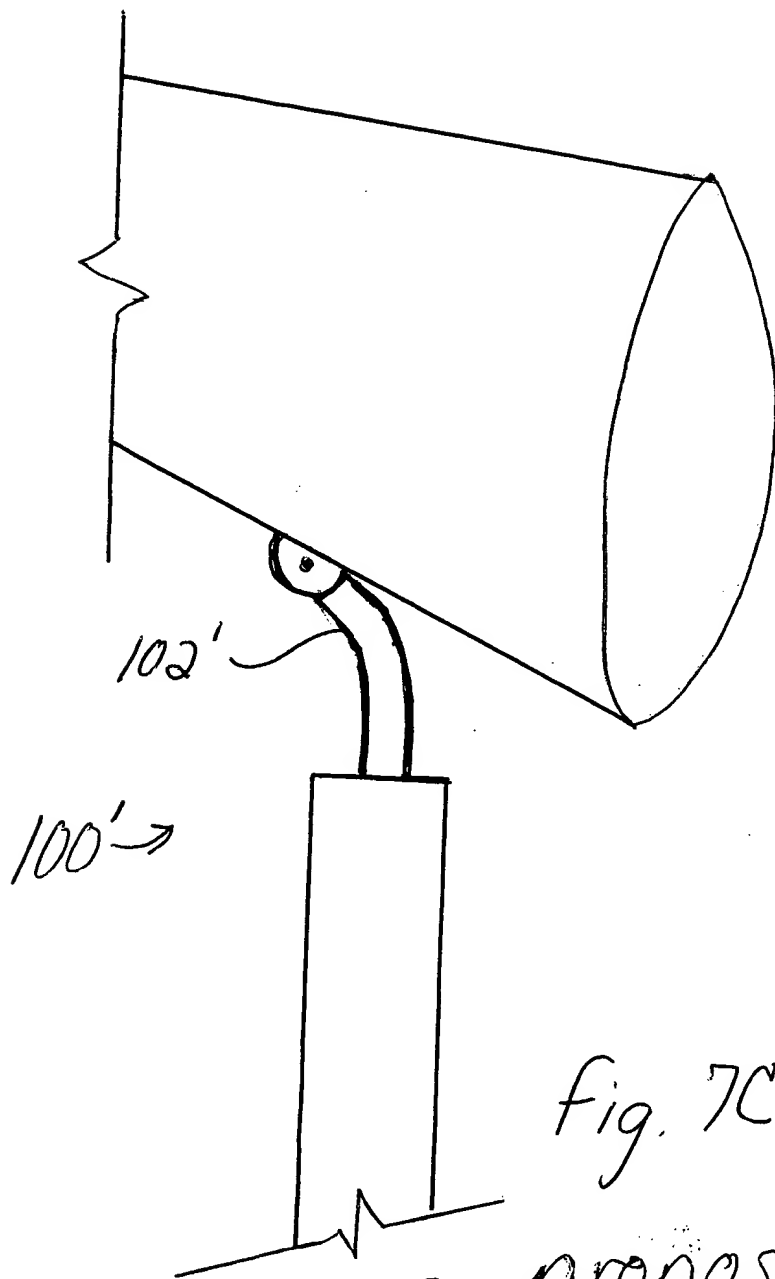


Fig. 7C
proposed -

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5/15/03

A1 Buttstock rests are a third category of rifle stabilizers. Lombardo (U.S. Patent 4,987,694) discloses a GUN REST FOR CONTROLLING THE BUTTSTOCK that has a U-shaped bracket that receives the butt of the gun stock. The U-shaped bracket terminates in a base member. It rigidly attaches to the butt vertical end surface. The device provides a mechanism to adjust buttstock elevation and a dampening pad reduces recoil forces.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

12 The present invention is a FIREARM LEVELER AND STABILIZER, hereafter also referred to as the "leveler-stabilizer," that reduces rifle movement to improve shot groupings or accuracy and/or assists in leveling the rifle for precise aim or comfort. The leveler-stabilizer provides a rear support leg that, when used in conjunction with a front bi-pod, provides a simple, yet stable system that can also reduce fatigue of the user during aiming and waiting for the desired shot.

13
The preferred leveler-stabilizer is a simple and effective device that, with a minimum of parts, addresses the need for a compact and reliable leveling and stabilizing device, especially for the rear end of the gun. The leveler-stabilizer includes, on one end, a pivotal connector that connects or attaches to the bottom surface of a rear portion of a gun, preferably to the bottom surface of the butt of the gun. The leveler-stabilizer includes, on its other end, a foot pad for resting on the ground or other surface. Between the connector and the foot pad is preferably an elongated leg comprising a single turnbuckle. The turnbuckle provides an adjustment means for extremely precise height-adjustment and leveling of the firearm. Also, the foot pad rests upon a supporting surface to support the firearm, and, when used with a bi-pod, to create a three-leg support system that allows the user to rest his arms rather than support the firearm for long periods of time while aiming and waiting. During the shot, the invented leveler-stabilizer increases stability during recoil.

AA

The preferred device is constructed from three main components: a connector, a turnbuckle assembly, and a lower assembly. The preferred connector is a swivel assembly that is adapted to pivotally connect to a rear portion of a firearm. Preferably, the swivel assembly connects to a sling mount, such as a sling stud, which is often already provided on a gun buttstock for receiving one end of a gun sling.

A5 The turnbuckle comprises two oppositely threaded ends that rotate on their axis in the turnbuckle body. One threaded rod of the turnbuckle assembly is connected to the swivel assembly, and the other oppositely-threaded rod of the turnbuckle assembly is connected to the lower assembly. The turnbuckle body connects, and is generally centrally located between, the two threaded ends.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic side view of one embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer that includes an exterior sling attachment point on the foot pad of the leveler-stabilizer.

Figure 2 is a side view of the leveler-stabilizer of Figure 1, without an exterior sling attachment point, pivoted into a generally-horizontal storage position.

Figure 3 is a front view of another embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer having a recessed sling attachment point.

Figure 4 is a front view of the detail of the lower assembly of the embodiment in Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a side view of an embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer connected to a rifle and a sling and being carried by a user.

Figure 6 is a side view of another, especially-preferred embodiment, with a modified connector.

Figure 7A illustrates a leveler-stabilizer of the type in Figure 6 in use with a bi-pod near the front of the gun.

Figure 7B illustrates a leveler-stabilizer of the type in Figure 6 stored against the gun during non-use.

Figure 7C illustrates a leveler-stabilizer of the type in Figure 6 having a curved arm.

17

The swivel assembly (2) has two pins (8, 8') in a swivel (10), as depicted in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 illustrates the leveler-stabilizer 1 in its extended, generally vertical position ready for use. The first pin (8) interconnects with a sling stud or mount (12) to make the swivel (10) pivotal relative to the buttstock (14). For example, pin 8 may pass through an aperture in the sling mount 12 (aperture not shown). As suggested in Figure 2, which shows the leveler-stabilizer 1 pivoted for storage or travel, the pivotal nature of this connection allows the swivel (10), actually, the leveler-stabilizer 1 as a whole, to pivot to be generally parallel, and in close proximity, to the buttstock. The second pin (8') interconnects the swivel (10) with a male, right-threaded rod (16) and allows this rod (16) to pivot to be parallel and close to the buttstock.

18
The invented single-leg, turnbuckle-style leveler-stabilizer allows accurate adjustment while also providing a rigid "leg" upon which the firearm is supported and which is used as a raising device or lowering device which pivots the firearm on its front pivot point, which is the front pod unit 200 (mono-pod, bi-pod, or other). Frictional forces within the turnbuckle prevent unintentional, accidental movement of the turnbuckle. This vertical position permits the turnbuckle to rotate and adjust the elevation of the firearm's barrel for targeting. Importantly, this adjustment does not require movement of the foot pad (22) and allows the gunman to adjust the elevation without movement of the firearm, that is, while the foot pad is firmly and surely in place. The use of a forestock support such as a monopod, bipod, sandbags, etc. may enhance the foot pad stabilization and provide even greater projectile accuracy, as shown in Figure 7A.

AG
Figures 6, 7A, and 7B illustrate an especially-preferred embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer 100, which includes a modified swivel assembly 102, a rubbery pad or otherwise gripping surface 103 on the bottom of the foot pad, a sling mount 104, and etching or other frictional enhancement 105 on the turnbuckle body (6). The swivel assembly 102 comprises a swivel (110) that utilizes a single top pivot point 108, which pivots relative to the sling stud or sling mount 12. A bolt or pin extends through the sling mount 12, and the swivel (110) pivots to place the leveler-stabilizer 100 in a generally vertical (but preferably somewhat rearward-reaching) position, as shown in Figure 7A. When the leveler-stabilizer 100 is stored, it pivots at the single top pivot point 108, which may also be called a single pivot joint of the swivel.

A10

The especially-preferred swivel (110) comprises an arm (111) that extends from its fixed connection with top rod (16) at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the leveler-stabilizer 100, to place the pivot point (108) a distance from the axis of the leveler-stabilizer 100. The arm extends preferably about one inch (or preferably in the range of about 1-2 inches) from the axis at an angle of about 40 degrees (preferably in the range of about 30-50) to the rod (16). See angle A in Figure 6. This way, when the swivel 110 pivots for storage, there is clearance for the leveler-stabilizer 100. As shown in Figure 7C, a level-stabilizer 100' may have a swivel assembly 102' with a curved arm.

APPENDIX B

CLAIMS

I claim:

- All*
Cont.
1. A finely-adjustable firearm leveler and support device comprising an elongated member adapted to extend down from a firearm to support the firearm, the elongated member comprising:
a connector assembly adapted to pivotally connect to a firearm;
a base member adapted for placement on a support surface; and
a turnbuckle extending between and adjustably connecting the connector assembly to the base member so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a first direction lengthens the elongated member to raise the firearm, and so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a second direction shortens the elongated member to lower the firearm.
 2. The device as in Claim 1, further comprising a sling mount on the base member, and a sling connected at one end to the sling mount on the base member for attachment at an opposing end to a front portion of the firearm.
 3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the connector assembly comprises a single pivot joint.
 4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the connector assembly comprises two pivot joints, so that the connector assembly pivots relative to the firearm and the connector also pivots relative to the turnbuckle.

5. A finely-adjustable firearm leveler and support device comprising an elongated member adapted to extend down from a firearm to support the firearm, the elongated member comprising:

a connector assembly adapted to pivotally connect to a firearm;

a base member adapted for placement on a support surface; and

a turnbuckle extending between and adjustably connecting the connector assembly to the base member so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a first direction lengthens the elongated member to raise the firearm, and so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a second direction shortens the elongated member to lower the firearm;

wherein the connector assembly comprises an angled arm with a first end attached to the turnbuckle and a second end that extends away from the turnbuckle at an angle to the axis of the elongated member.

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the angle is 30 - 50 degrees.

7. The device of Claim 5, wherein the connector assembly comprises a single pivotal joint.

8. The device of Claim 1, wherein the turnbuckle has two oppositely-threaded end rods and a central body adapted to be turned relative to the end rods to shorten and lengthen the elongated member.

9. A finely-adjustable firearm leveler and support device comprising an elongated member adapted to extend down from a firearm to support the firearm, the elongated member consisting essentially of:

a connector assembly adapted to pivotally connect to a firearm;

a base member adapted for placement on a support surface; and

a turnbuckle extending between and adjustably connecting the connector assembly to the base member so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a first direction lengthens the elongated member to raise the firearm, and so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a second direction shortens the elongated member to lower the firearm.

10. The device of Claim 9, wherein the turnbuckle has two oppositely-threaded end rods and a central body adapted to rotate relative to the end rods to lengthen and shorten the elongated member.

11. The device as in Claim 9, wherein the base member comprises a sling mount for a sling.

12. The device of Claim 9, wherein the connector assembly comprises a single pivot joint.

13. The device of Claim 9, wherein the connector assembly comprises two pivot joints, so that the connector assembly pivots relative to the firearm and the connector also pivots relative to the turnbuckle.

14. A finely-adjustable firearm leveler and support device comprising an elongated member adapted to extend down from a firearm to support the firearm, the elongated member consisting essentially of:

a connector assembly adapted to pivotally connect to a firearm;

a base member adapted for placement on a support surface; and

a turnbuckle extending between and adjustably connecting the connector assembly to the base member so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a first direction lengthens the elongated member to raise the firearm, and so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a second direction shortens the elongated member to lower the firearm; wherein the connector assembly comprises an angled arm with a first end attached to the turnbuckle and a second end that extends away from the turnbuckle at an angle to the axis of the elongated member.

15. The device of Claim 14, wherein the angle is 30 - 50 degrees.

16. A finely-adjustable firearm leveler and support device comprising an elongated member adapted to extend down from a firearm to support the firearm, the elongated member comprising:

A12 a connector assembly adapted to pivotally connect to a firearm;

a base member adapted for placement on a support surface; and

a turnbuckle extending between and adjustably connecting the connector assembly to the base member so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a first direction lengthens the elongated member to raise the firearm, and so that rotation of the turnbuckle on its axis in a second direction shortens the elongated member to lower the firearm;

wherein the connector assembly comprises a curved arm with a first end attached to the turnbuckle and a second end that extends away from the axis of the elongated member.

A12 17. The device of Claim 16, wherein the connector assembly comprises a single pivotal joint.

APPENDIX C

rigidly attaches to the butt vertical end surface. The device provides a mechanism to adjust buttstock elevation and a dampening pad reduces recoil forces.

Beltz (U.S. Patent 5,937,560) is an ADJUSTABLE FIRE ARM SUPPORT that attaches to a sling stud mounted on the underside of a buttstock. A top end of a support rod has a pivotal clasp that engages the sling stud. A support leg can be rotated up or down on the lower threaded end of the support rod.

~~BRIEF~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a FIREARM LEVELER AND STABILIZER, hereafter also referred to as the "leveler-stabilizer," that reduces rifle movement to improve shot groupings or accuracy and/or assists in leveling the rifle for precise aim or comfort. The leveler-stabilizer provides a rear support leg that, when used in conjunction with a front bi-pod, provides a simple, yet stable system that can also reduce fatigue of the user during aiming and waiting for the desired shot.

The leveler-stabilizer comprises preferably a single adjustable elongated member, that is preferably used along with a front support of some type, but that is not connected to the front support. The leveler-stabilizer has an adjustment system for lengthening or shortening the elongated member that features extremely fine-adjustment or "fine-tuning." Most-preferably, the adjustment system comprises a turnbuckle.

The preferred leveler-stabilizer is a simple and effective device that, ^{with a} minimum of parts, addresses the need for a compact and reliable leveling and stabilizing device, especially ^{for} the rear end of the gun. The leveler-stabilizer includes, on one end, a pivotal connector that

connects or attaches to the bottom surface of a rear portion of a gun, preferably to the bottom surface of the butt of the gun. The leveler-stabilizer includes, on its other end, a foot pad for resting on the ground or other surface. Between the connector and the foot pad is preferably an elongated leg comprising a single turnbuckle. The turnbuckle provides an adjustment means for extremely precise height-adjustment and leveling of the firearm. Also, the foot pad rests upon a supporting surface to support the firearm, and, when used with a bi-pod, to create a three-leg support system that allows the user to rest his arms rather than support the firearm for long periods of time while aiming and waiting. During the shot, the invented leveler-stabilizer increase^S stability during recoil.
^

The preferred device is constructed from three main components: a connector, a turnbuckle assembly, and a lower assembly~~X~~. The preferred connector is a swivel assembly that is adapted to pivotally connect to a rear portion of a firearm. Preferably, the swivel assembly connects to a sling mount, such as a sling stud, which is often already provided on a gun buttstock for receiving one end of a gun sling.

The turnbuckle comprises two oppositely threaded ends that rotates~~/~~ on their axis in the turnbuckle body. One threaded rod of the turnbuckle assembly is connected to the swivel assembly, and the other oppositely-threaded rod of the turnbuckle assembly is connected to the lower assembly. The turnbuckle body connects, and is generally centrally located between, the two threaded ends.

The lower assembly comprises a foot pad that is pivotally connected to the lower end of the turnbuckle, that is, the lower threaded rod. The foot pad may have an optional sling

APPENDIX D

Figure 3 is a front view of another embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer having a recessed sling attachment point.

Figure 4 is a front view of the detail of the lower assembly of the embodiment in Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a side view of an embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer connected to a rifle and a sling and being carried by a user.

Figure 6 is a side view of another, especially-preferred embodiment, with a modified connector.

Figure 7A illustrates the leveler-stabilizer of the type in use with a bi-pod near the front of the gun.

Figure 7B illustrates the leveler-stabilizer of the type in stored against the gun during non-use.

Figure 7C illustrates a leveler-stabilizer of the type in Figure 6 having a curved arm.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the Figures, there are shown several, but not the only, embodiments of the leveler-stabilizer 1. The preferred embodiment comprises a swivel assembly (2), a lower assembly (4) and a turnbuckle (6).

The swivel assembly (2) has two pins (8, 8') in a swivel (10), as depicted in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 illustrates the leveler-stabilizer 1 in its extended, generally vertical position ready for use. The first pin (8) interconnects with a sling stud or mount (12) to make the swivel (10) pivotal relative to the buttstock (14). For example, pin 8 may pass through an aperture in the sling mount 12 (aperture not shown). As suggested in Figure 2, which shows the leveler-

stabilizer 1 pivoted for storage or travel, the pivotal nature of this connection allows the swivel (10), actually, the leveler-stabilizer 1 as a whole, to pivot to be generally parallel, and in close proximity, to the buttstock. The second pin (8') interconnects the swivel (10) with a male, right-threaded rod (16) and allows this rod (16) to pivot to be parallel and close to the ~~gun barrel~~ ^{buttstock.}

5 The sling mount (12) may include a threaded protrusion (18) that screws into the buttstock 14 (or, less-preferably, to a butt plate at the end of the butt). Optionally, the sling mount (12) may be integrated into the buttstock (or butt plate) during manufacture of the firearm. Other sling mount embodiments may use different attachment mechanisms including hook and loop fasteners, cotter pins, welded protrusions or plates, etc. to connect the swivel (10) to the
10 buttstock 14.

 The lower assembly (4) includes a foot pad (22) that interconnects with a male, left-threaded rod (24) by means of a third pivotal pin (26). Foot pad (22) is preferably generally trapezoidal or pyramid-shaped, with a base (23) approximately 1-5" wide X 1-3" deep. The foot pad (22) height (extending up from the base) is minimal to reduce the weight of the overall
15 device but will depend on provisions for a sling attachment point. The pivotal nature of the connection by pivotal pin (26) permits the foot pad to rotate relative to the left threaded rod (24) when the foot pad is placed upon a slanted planar surface. An optional pin (28) may be recessed within a concave well (30) on the front portion of the foot pad to accommodate attachment of a carrying sling (32). An eyelet (34) affixed to the exterior surface of the same area may serve a
20 similar purpose.

 Turnbuckle body (6) has female right- and left-threading, and rotates about its axis to accept the right threaded rod (16) and the left threaded rod (24) at opposite ends of the body (6).

rotate all the way to a position wherein it is contacting the lower plane of the firearm's buttstock (14) at least at points along the length of the leveler-stabilizer. The stored position of the leveler-stabilizer against the buttstock permits storage of the firearm in a gun rack or similar container without removal of the leveler-stabilizer.

5 The device's vertical position places a first surface (35) of the swivel (10) against the buttstock (14) with the right threaded rod (16) extending downward from the swivel. This positioning generally places the device's rod-turnbuckle axis in a perpendicular orientation to the firearm's barrel.

10 The invented single-leg, turnbuckle-style leveler-stabilizer allows accurate adjustment while also providing a rigid "leg" upon which the firearm is supported and which is used as a raising device or lowering device which pivots the firearm ~~pivot~~ on its front pivot point, which is the front pod unit 200 (mono-pod, bi-pod, or other). Frictional forces within the turnbuckle prevent unintentional, accidental movement of the turnbuckle. This vertical position permits the turnbuckle to rotate and adjust the elevation of the firearm's barrel for targeting. Importantly,

15 this adjustment does not require movement of the foot pad (22) and allows the gunman to adjust the elevation without movement of the firearm, that is, while the foot pad is firmly and surely in place. The use of a forestock support such as a monopod, bipod, sandbags, etc. may enhance the foot pad stabilization and provide even greater projectile accuracy, as shown in Figure 7A.

20 Figures 6, 7A, and 7B illustrate an especially-preferred embodiment of the leveler-stabilizer 100, which includes a modified swivel assembly 102, a rubbery pad or otherwise gripping surface 103 on the bottom of the foot pad, a sling mount 104, and etching or other frictional enhancement 105 on the turnbuckle body (6). The swivel assembly 102 comprises a

swivel (110) that utilizes a single top pivot point 108, which pivots relative to the sling stud or sling mount 12. A bolt or pin extends through the sling mount 12, and the swivel (110) pivots to place the leveler-stabilizer 100 in a generally vertical (but preferably somewhat rearward-reaching) position, as shown in Figure 7A. When the leveler-stabilizer 100 is stored, it pivots at the single top pivot point 108, which may also be called a single pivot joint of the swivel.

The especially-preferred swivel (110) comprises an arm (111) that extends from its fixed connection with top rod (16) at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the leveler-stabilizer 100, to place the pivot point (108) a distance from the axis of the leveler-stabilizer 100. The arm extends preferably about one inch (or preferably in the range of about 1-2 inches) from the axis at an angle of about 40 degrees (preferably in the range of about 30-50) to the rod (16). See angle A in Figure 6. This way, when the swivel 110 pivots for storage, there is clearance for the

leveler-stabilizer 100. *As shown in figure 7C, a level-stabilizer 100' may have a swivel assembly 102' with a curved arm.*

The invented leveler-stabilizer is particularly effective because it is preferably simple in construction and use. It may consist of as few parts as the swivel assembly (with one pivot bolt or pin) non-rotatable and non-pivotally attached (at "B") to the top rod, the lower rod pivotally but non-rotatably attached (at "C") to the foot pad (with preferably a gripping surface), and a turnbuckle body connecting the top and lower rod.

Although this invention has been described above with reference to particular means, materials and embodiments, it is not limited to these disclosed particulars and extends to all equivalents within the scope of the following claims.

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APPENDIX E

The New Oxford American Dictionary

EDITED BY

Elizabeth J. Jewell
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cursive |'kərsɪv| ▶ adj. written with the characters joined: *cursive script*.

▶ n. writing with such a style.

—DERIVATIVES **cursively** adv.

—ORIGIN late 18th cent.: from medieval Latin *curvus*, from Latin *curvus* 'run', from the verb *currere*.

cursor |'kɜːsə| ▶ n. a movable indicator on a computer screen identifying the point that will be affected by input from the user, for example showing where typed text will be inserted.

■ chiefly historical the transparent slide engraved with a hairline that is part of a slide rule and is used for marking a point on the rule while bringing a point on the central sliding portion up to it.

—ORIGIN Middle English (denoting a runner or running messenger): from Latin, 'runner', from *currere* (see **CURSIVE**). The sense 'sliding part of an instrument' dates from the late 16th cent.

cursorial |kə'sɔːrɪəl| ▶ adj. Zoology having limbs adapted for running.

—ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Latin *cursor* (see **CURSOR**) + -IAL.

cursorily |'kɜːsərɪ| ▶ adj. hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed: *a cursory glance at the figures*.

—DERIVATIVES **cursorily** |'kɜːsərɪ| adv; **cursoriness** n.

—ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *cursorius* 'of a runner', from *cursor* (see **CURSOR**).

curst |kɜːst| ▶ adj. archaic spelling of **CURSED**.

curt |kɜːt| ▶ adj. rudely brief: *his reply was curt*.

—DERIVATIVES **curtly** adv; **curtness** n.

—ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'short, shortened'): from Latin *curtus* 'cut short, abridged'.

curtail |kɜː'teɪl| ▶ v. [trans.] (often be curtailed) reduce in extent or quantity; impose a restriction on: *civil liberties were further curtailed*.

■ (curtail someone of) archaic deprive someone of (something): *I that am curtailed of this fair proportion*.

—DERIVATIVES **curtailment** |kɜː'teɪlmənt| n.

—ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from obsolete *curtal* 'horse with a docked tail', from French *cortault*, from *court* 'short', from Latin *curtus*. The change in the ending was due to association with **TAIL** and perhaps also with French *tailleur* 'to cut'.

curtain |'kɜːtən| ▶ n. a piece of material suspended at the top to form a screen, typically movable sideways along a rail, found as one of a pair at a window: *she drew the curtains and lit the fire* | figurative *through the curtain of falling snow, she could just make out grave-stones*.

■ (the curtain) a screen of heavy cloth or other material that can be raised or lowered at the front of a stage. ■ a raising or lowering of such a screen at the beginning or end of an act or scene: *the art is to hold your audience right from the opening curtain*. ■ (curtains) informal a disastrous outcome: *it looked like curtains for me*.

▶ v. [trans.] [often as adj.] (curtained) provide with a curtain or curtains: *a curtained window*.

■ conceal or screen with a curtain: *a curtained-off side room* | figurative *her unbound hair curtaining her face*.

—PHRASES **bring down the curtain** on bring to an end: *her decision brought down the curtain on a glittering 30-year career*.

—ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *cortine*, from late Latin *cortina*, translation of Greek *aulaia*, from *aulē* 'court'.

curtain call ▶ n. the appearance of one or more performers on stage after a performance to acknowledge the audience's applause.

curtain lecture ▶ n. dated an instance of a wife reprimanding her husband in private.

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: originally a reprimand given behind bed curtains.

curtain raiser ▶ n. an entertainment or other arts event happening just before a longer or more important one: *Bach's Sinfonia in B flat was an ideal curtain-raiser to Mozart's last piano concerto*.

—ORIGIN late 19th cent.: originally used in the theater to denote a short opening piece performed before a play.

curtain speech ▶ n. a speech of thanks or appreciation to an audience, made after a performance by an actor playing a leading role, typically from the front of the stage with the curtains closed.

curtain time ▶ n. [in sing.] the beginning of a stage performance: *curtain time is at 8 p.m.*

curtain wall ▶ n. a fortified wall around a medieval castle, typically one linking towers together.

■ a wall that encloses the space within a building but does not support the roof, typically on a modern high-rise.

curtial |'kɜːtɪəl| ▶ adj. archaic shortened, abridged, or curtailed.

▶ n. historical a dulcian or bassoon of the late 16th to early 18th century.

—ORIGIN late 15th cent. (denoting a short-barreled cannon): from French *cortault*, from *court* 'short' + the pejorative suffix *-ault*. In both English and French the noun denoted various items characterized by something short, esp. an animal with a docked tail, which probably gave rise to the adjective sense.

curtana |kɜː'tænə| ▶ n. Brit. the unpointed sword carried in front of English sovereigns at their coronation to represent mercy.

—ORIGIN Middle English: from Anglo-Latin *curtana* (*spatha*) 'shortened (sword)', from Old French *cortain*, the name of the sword belonging to **ROLAND** (the point of which was damaged when it was thrust into a block of steel), from *cort* 'short', from Latin *curtus* 'cut short'.

curtesy ▶ n. (pl. -ies) Law historical a tenure by which a husband, after his wife's death, held certain kinds of property that she had inherited.

curtilage |'kɜːtɪl-ɪj| ▶ n. an area of land attached to a house and forming one enclosure with it: *the roads within the curtilage of the development site*.

—ORIGIN Middle English: from Anglo-Norman French, variant of Old French *cortillage*, from *cortil* 'small court', from *cort* 'court'.

Curtis |'kɜːtɪs|, Benjamin Robbins (1809–74), US Supreme Court associate justice 1851–57. He resigned in protest over the Court's handling of the Dred Scott case 1857. He served as chief counsel to Andrew Johnson during Johnson's impeachment in 1868. His brother, George Ticknor Curtis (1812–94), a lawyer and writer, argued for the plaintiff before the US Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case.

Curtiss |'kɜːtɪs|, Glenn (Hammond) (1878–1930), US air pioneer and aircraft designer. In 1908, Curtiss made the first public US flight, traversing 0.6 miles (1.0 km). He built his first airplane in 1909 and invented the aileron and then demonstrated the first practical seaplane two years later.

curtsy |'kɜːtsɪ| (also **curtsey**) ▶ n. (pl. -ies or -eys) a woman's or girl's formal greeting made by bending the knees with one foot in front of the other: *she bobbed a curtsy to him*.

▶ v. (-ies, -ied or -eys, -eyed) [intrans.] perform such an action: *she curtsied onto the stage*.

—ORIGIN early 16th cent.: variant of **COURTESY**. Both forms were used to denote the expression of respect or courtesy by a gesture, esp. in phrases such as *do courtesy, make courtesy*, and from this arose the current use (late 16th cent.).

curule |'kyʊərə, ʊəl| ▶ adj. historical denoting or relating to the authority exercised by the senior magistrates in ancient Rome, chiefly the consul and praetor, who were entitled to use the *sella curulis* ('curule seat,' a kind of folding chair).

—ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *curulis*, from *curvus* 'curved' (in which the chief magistrate was conveyed to the seat of office), from *currere* 'to run'.

curvaceous |kɜː'væʃəs| ▶ adj. (esp. of a woman or a woman's figure) having an attractively curved shape.

—DERIVATIVES **curvaceousness** n.

curvature |'kɜːvətʃər; -CHʊər| ▶ n. the fact of being curved or the degree to which something is curved: *spinal curvature* | *the curvature of the earth* | *it has a distinct curvature near the middle*.

■ Geometry the degree to which a curve deviates from a straight line, or a curved surface deviates from a plane. ■ a numerical quantity expressing this.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *curvatura*, from *curvare* (see **CURVE**).

curve |kɜːv| ▶ n. a line or outline that gradually deviates from being straight for some or all of its length: *the parapet wall sweeps down in a bold curve*.

■ a place where a road deviates from a straight path: *the vehicle rounded a curve*. ■ (curves) a curving contour of a woman's figure. ■ a line on a graph (whether straight or curved) showing how one quantity varies with respect to another: *the population curve*. ■ a system in which grades are assigned to students based on their performance relative to other students, regardless of their actual knowledge of the subject: *grades were marked on a curve*. ■ Baseball another term for **CURVEBALL**.

▶ v. form or cause to form a curve: [intrans.] *her mouth curved in a smile* | [as adj.] *(curved) birds with long curved bills* | [trans.] *starting with arms outstretched, curve the body sideways*.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *curvare* 'to bend', from *curvus* 'bent'. The noun dates from the late 17th cent.

curveball |'kɜːvbɔːl| ▶ n. Baseball a ball that is pitched with a snap of the wrist and a strong downward spin, which causes the ball to drop suddenly and deceptively veer away from home plate.

curvet |kɜː'vet| ▶ n. a graceful or energetic leap.

▶ v. (curvetted, curvetting or curveted, curveting) [intrans.] rare leap gracefully or energetically.

—ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Italian *corvetta*, diminutive of *corva*, earlier form of *curva* 'a curve', from Latin *curvus* 'bent'.

curvilinear |,kɜːvə'liːnər| ▶ adj. contained by or consisting of a curved line or lines: *these designs employ flowing, curvilinear forms*.

—DERIVATIVES **curvilinearly** adv.

—ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from *curvi-* 'curved', from Latin *curvus*, on the pattern of *rectilinear*.

curvirostral |,kɜːvə'rɔːstrəl| ▶ adj. with a curved beak.

curvy |'kɜːvɪ| ▶ adj. (curvier, curviest) having many curves: *a curvy stretch of road*.

■ informal (esp. of a woman's figure) shapely and voluptuous.

—DERIVATIVES **curviness** n.

cuscus |'kʊskəs; 'kʊskʊs| ▶ n. a tree-dwelling marsupial with a rounded head and prehensile tail, native to New Guinea and northern Australia.

■ Four genera in the family Phalangeridae: several species, including the spotted cuscus (*Spiloglossus maculatus*) and the grey cuscus (*Phalanger orientalis*). See also **PHALANGER**.

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: via French and Dutch from a local name in the Molucca Islands.

cusec |'kyʊ,sek| ▶ n. a unit of flow (esp. of water) equal to one cubic foot per second.

—ORIGIN early 20th cent.: abbreviation of *cubic foot per second*.

Cush |kʊʃ| 1 (in the Bible) the eldest son of Ham and grandson of Noah (Gen. 10:6).

2 the southern part of ancient Nubia, first mentioned in Egyptian records of the Middle Kingdom. In the Bible it is the country of the descendants of Cush.

cushat |'kʊʃət| ▶ n. dialect, chiefly Scottish a wood pigeon.

—ORIGIN Old English, of unknown origin.

cushaw |kʊ'shə; 'kʊ,shə| (also **cushaw squash**) ▶ n. a large winter squash of a variety with a curved neck.

—ORIGIN late 16th cent.: of unknown origin.

cush-cush |'kʊʃ, 'kʊʃ| (also **cush-cush yam**) ▶ n. a tropical American yam that produces a number of tubers on each plant. Also called **YAMPEE**.

■ *Dioscorea trifida*, family Dioscoreaceae.

■ the edible tuber of this plant, eaten as a vegetable.

—ORIGIN late 19th cent.: perhaps ultimately of African origin.

Cushing |'kʊʃɪŋ|, William (1732–1810), US Supreme Court associate justice 1789–1810. After serving as chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court 1780–89, he was the first person to be nominated by President Washington to serve as an associate justice on the US Supreme Court.

Cushing's disease |'kʊʃɪŋz| ▶ n. Cushing's syndrome as caused by a tumor of the pituitary gland.

Cushing's syndrome ▶ n. Medicine a metabolic disorder caused by overproduction of corticosteroid hormones by the adrenal cortex and often involving obesity and high blood pressure.

—ORIGIN 1930s: named after Harvey W. Cushing (1869–1939), American surgeon.

cushion |'kʊʃən| ▶ n. a pillow or pad stuffed with a mass of soft material, used as a comfortable support for sitting or leaning on.

■ something providing support or protection against impact: *the pad forms a cushion between carpet and floor* | figurative *a poll showed the candidate with a 10-point cushion*. ■ the elastic lining of the sides of a billiard table, from which the ball rebounds. ■ the layer of air supporting a hovercraft or similar vehicle.

▶ v. [trans.] soften the effect of an impact on: *the bag cushioned equipment from inevitable knocks*.

■ figurative mitigate the adverse effects of: *he called for federal assistance to cushion the blow for farmers*.

—DERIVATIVES **cushioned** adj; **cushiony** adj.

—ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *cushion*, based on a Latin word meaning 'cushion for the hip', from *coxa* 'hip, thigh'.

cushion capital ▶ n. Architecture a capital resembling a cushion pressed down by a weight, seen particularly in Romanesque churches.

Cushitic |kʊʃɪ'tɪk; 'kʊʃ-| ▶ n. a group of East African languages of the Afro-Asiatic family, spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, including Somali and Oromo.

▶ adj. of or relating to this group of languages.

—ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from **CUSH** + -ITIC.

cushy |'kʊʃi| ▶ adj. (cushier, cushiest) informal 1 (of a job, task, or situation) undemanding, easy, or secure: *cushy jobs that pay you to ski*.

2 (of furniture) comfortable.